

Message Text

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65-60

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 GSA-01 EUR-12 INT-05 /064 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DEHLI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, IN

SUBJECT: MICA

REF: A. NEW DEHLI 3506, B. NEW DEHLI 3396,

C. NEW DEHLI 15045 (NOV. 7, 1974)

1. INFO CONTAINED REFS A AND B PASSED TO TESTAN, OF MICA INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION (MIA), NEW YORK. FOLLOWING CONSULTATION WITH MIA MEMBERS TESTAN ADVISED DEPARTMENT THAT IF GOI GOES THROUGH WITH PLAN TO CHANNEL MICA EXPORTS (OF GRADE "5" AND BELOW) THROUGH MICA TRADING CORP. LTD. (MTCL), MIA MEMBERS WOULD DEFINITELY CURTAIL THEIR PURCHASES OF INDIAN MICA. TESTAN ADDED HE HAS HEARD FROM BRITISH MICA IMPORTER THAT UK MICA TRADE ALSO OPPOSED TO GOI PLAN, AND SPECULATED THAT GOI MIGHT NOT FOLLOW THROUGH ON IT BECAUSE OF FOREIGN OPPOSITION.

2. IN RELATED MATTER, GENERAL ELECTRIC CORP. (GE - LARGEST
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US CONSUMER OF MICA) ADVISED DEPARTMENT APRIL 1 IT HAD

BEEN APPROACHED BY INDIAN (PRESUMABLY OFFICIAL OF MTCL) RE POSSIBILITY OF GE PURCHASING ITS INDIAN MICA REQUIREMENTS DIRECTLY FROM MTCL INSTEAD OF BUYING FROM US IMPORTERS (OF WHOM TESTAN IS ONE). GE ADVISED DEPARTMENT IT OPPOSED TO BUYING DIRECTLY FROM MTCL, NOTING THAT IT HAD EXPLORED

THIS POSSIBILITY SOME YEARS AGO BUT REJECTED IT BECAUSE OF QUALITY PROBLEMS. UNDER PRESENT ARRANGEMENT OF BUYING FROM US MICA IMPORTER, GE HAS DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE RECOURSE AGAINST IMPORTER ON QUALITY PROBLEMS, AND THIS ADVANTAGE WOULD BE LOST IF GE WERE TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH MTCL.

3. GE OFFICIALS PLAN VISIT WASHINGTON LATER THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS SITUATION WITH DEPARTMENT. FOR THIS MEETING WITH GE, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BY OPENING OF BUSINESS THURSDAY, APRIL 3, REPORT ON CURRENT STATUS OF GOI PLAN TO CHANNEL MICA EXPORTS THROUGH MTCL; AND ANY INFORMATION RE MTCL PLANS OR EFFORTS TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH MAJOR FOREIGN MICA CONSUMERS, BYPASSING FOREIGN MICA IMPORTERS AND TRADERS. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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